gation, copies of all necessary and relevant documents, so that they are in a position to collect the correct informaiton. I would like to submit heve that the delegation is going to Ayodhya tomorrow and it won't serve any purpose, if it is in the dark about the facts.(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we too should be given an opportunity to speak on this subject.

MR. SPEAKER: Alright, you will also get an opportunity.

[*English*]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): About 1008 unskilled/were employed by the Electricity Department in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Island. They started working as seasonal workers during 6th and 7th Plan – they have been working for the last 12–15 years – to implement different Plan schemes for Rural Electrification, establishment of new Power Houses, Augmentation of DC capacity in existing Power Houses, erection of transmission and distribution system, procurement, collection, shipment and despatch of stores, equipments, casting of RCC poles, etc. As the plan works continued from year to year basis, the same workers were re-employed for execution of different types of works connected with different schemes; they were allowed to continue in their work But unfortunately more than 12 years have passed that these workers have been working and their services have not been regularised so far.

The Parliamentary Committee on Government Assurances had also looked into this matter and recommended the consideration of their case.

Thereafter the Supreme Court had also considered this matter and opined that ths case should be reconsidered. Unfortunately, the Andaman and Nicobar administration have referred the matter to the Ministry of Energy, Government of India, for creation of the posts. No action has been taken yet

So, I request the Government, through you, to consider this case from the humanitarian angle. It is a question of 1008 families and their survival. I request the Government to create these 1008 posts immediately and regularise their services.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADNA LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the non–payment of the two instalments of Dearness Allowance due to Central Government Employees with effect from July 1, 1991 and January 1, 1992, in the days of Sky rocketing prices, is indeed regrettable and and condemnable. It is impossible for Government employees with salaried income to sustain themselves and their families without dearness allowance. During the last year, there has been a 13 per cent hike in the wholesale prices, 16 per cent in retail prices and 25 to 75 per cent in the prices of essential commodities. The Government has withheld payment of instalments of Dearness Allowance with effect from January 1, 1992 for employees drawing a salary upto Rs. 3500 and with effect from July 1, 1991 for employees drawing salary above Rs. 3500. They have withheld payment of instalments to pensioners.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has provided royalty and other benefits to big capitalists, major industrial houses, multinational companies and the affluent people, but when it came to its employees, it committed a grave injustice with them by withholding the two instalments of Dearness Allowance. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government employees were expecting D.A. instalments at least with their salary for the month of

April, but it seems that there is some truth in the doubts expressed by the employees that the Government is withholding the payment of dearness allowance under pressure from the World Bank, although the Government denies it. However, delay in the payment of Dearness Allowance would tantamount to accepting the illegetimate conditionalities of the World Bank. I would like to submit that the Government should immediately pay the two instalments of D.A. due to the employees along with the interests for the period it has been withheld by the Government. I would like to make only this submission.

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO (Bapatla): I want to draw the attention of the Government to the difficulties being faced by the tobacco growing farmers in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Eighty per cent of the Virginia tobacco is being grown in the State of Andhra Pradesh and the Central Government is getting Rs. 2000 crores by way of excise revenue and also Rs. 250 crores by way of foreign exchange.

But unfortunately the farmers are being denied a remunerative price for the last few years. In December last year the hon. Minister, Shri Chidambaram had visited Guntur and assured the farmers that this year there are new orders for the export to the tune of 145 milliong kg and that enough remunerative price would be given to the farmers. But compared to last year, while last year Rs. 33 per kg was given this year they are giving only Rs 25 per kg.

On the other hand this year Russian orders for about 25 million kg of tobacco and 3000 million kg of cigarettes have been received. Unfortunately only about 15 million kg order for cigarettes has been given to these traders

Sir, other than this, because of the hike in the prices of diesel, coal, fertilizers and the hike in other wages, the price has been increased to the tune of about 60 per cent per acre. This time the farmer is supposed to incur Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000. Now the price is being reduced to the tune of about Rs. 10 when compared t the last year's price.

It is being said all over the State of Andhra Pradesh that this time export variety is being given Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 more when compared to the last year's price. About a sum of Rs. 30 crores is being given to five or six traders who are exporting these tobacco. Out of Rs. 30 crores, is being given to five or six traders who are exporting these tobacco. Out of Rs. 30 crores, it is widely discussed in the State of Andhra Pradesh that a sum of Rs. 10 crores is being given to the activities relating to AICC Plenary Session. Sir, it is a very shameful thing. In the State of Andhra Pradesh, when the farmer in working hard and giving Rs. 2,000 crores to the Central Government as well as Rs. 250 crores by way of foreign exchange, these traders are encouraged by the Government and are driving the farmers to this plight.

I request the Commerce Minister and the Government to attend to it; ask the STC to immediately come forward and enter into the market; and also ask the Tobacco Board to enter into the market so that they can procure ten million kgs of the buffer stock and these people are given very good remunerative price.

I would like to say this very unfortunately·

SHRI K.P. RODDAIAH YADV (Machilipatnam): Sir, a horrible and tragic rail accident took place at Tsundur railway station.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Reddaiah, the Railway Minister has sent me a letter that he wants to make a statement on this.

(*Interruptions*)